

Here is the CoARC response to more FAQs related to the COVID-19 crisis:

1. Do I need to notify the CoARC and complete any additional paperwork if my program is transitioning to online?

No, the only programs that need to notify the CoARC are those that cease operations. The CoARC expects that almost all programs will be transitioning to a virtual environment.

2. If my institution chooses to award pass/fail or satisfactory/unsatisfactory grades in the respiratory care program would this be a violation of the CoARC Standards?

The CoARC does not dictate how a program should grade its students. This is an institutional and/or regional accreditor prerogative. However, the grading methodology must be transparent, equitable, and transferrable.

3. If my program wants to loan ventilators and/or other equipment to local hospitals is this a violation of the CoARC Standards?

All the equipment in a respiratory care program is the property (or responsibility if leased/rented) of the academic institution. If your program wishes to lend any equipment to local hospitals it needs approval only from the program sponsor. However, once normal operations resume the program must ensure that all equipment needed for laboratory instruction is back in the lab and readily available for the students.

4. Our program has moved to an online format. Do examinations still need to be proctored?

Yes, the program must continue to ensure academic integrity. Proctoring can be achieved by a variety of ways in addition to the face to face method. While a lockdown browser application alone is not enough to meet this requirement, almost every learning management system (Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle, Desire 2 Learn, etc.) has an integrated video conferencing platforms designed for online teaching. These platforms can use the webcams on the students' computers so that instructors can view their screens during examinations. Many institutions are already using third party platforms such as ProctorU, Examity, etc. for this purpose. While the CoARC realizes it is impossible to eliminate all forms of cheating, programs must make a good faith effort to maintain academic integrity.